

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks are respectfully requested. Claims 1 and 28 are amended without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 17-19 and 44-46 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Rejection of Claims 1-3, 7, 9-13, 15-18, 20-30, 34, 36-40, 42-54 and 56-57 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 7, 9-13, 15-18, 20-30, 34, 36-40, 42-54 and 56-57 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by O'Brien et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,601,031 ("O'Brien et al.")). Applicants have amended the claims to obtain allowable subject matter and therefore request a Notice of Allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action states that claims 19 and 46 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims 17-18 and 44-45. Applicants have so amended the claims and thus request a Notice of Allowance.

CONCLUSION

Having addressed all rejections and objections, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If necessary, the Commissioner for Patents is authorized to charge or credit the **Novak, Druce & Quigg, LLP, Account No. 14-1437** for any deficiency or overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: *TM*

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